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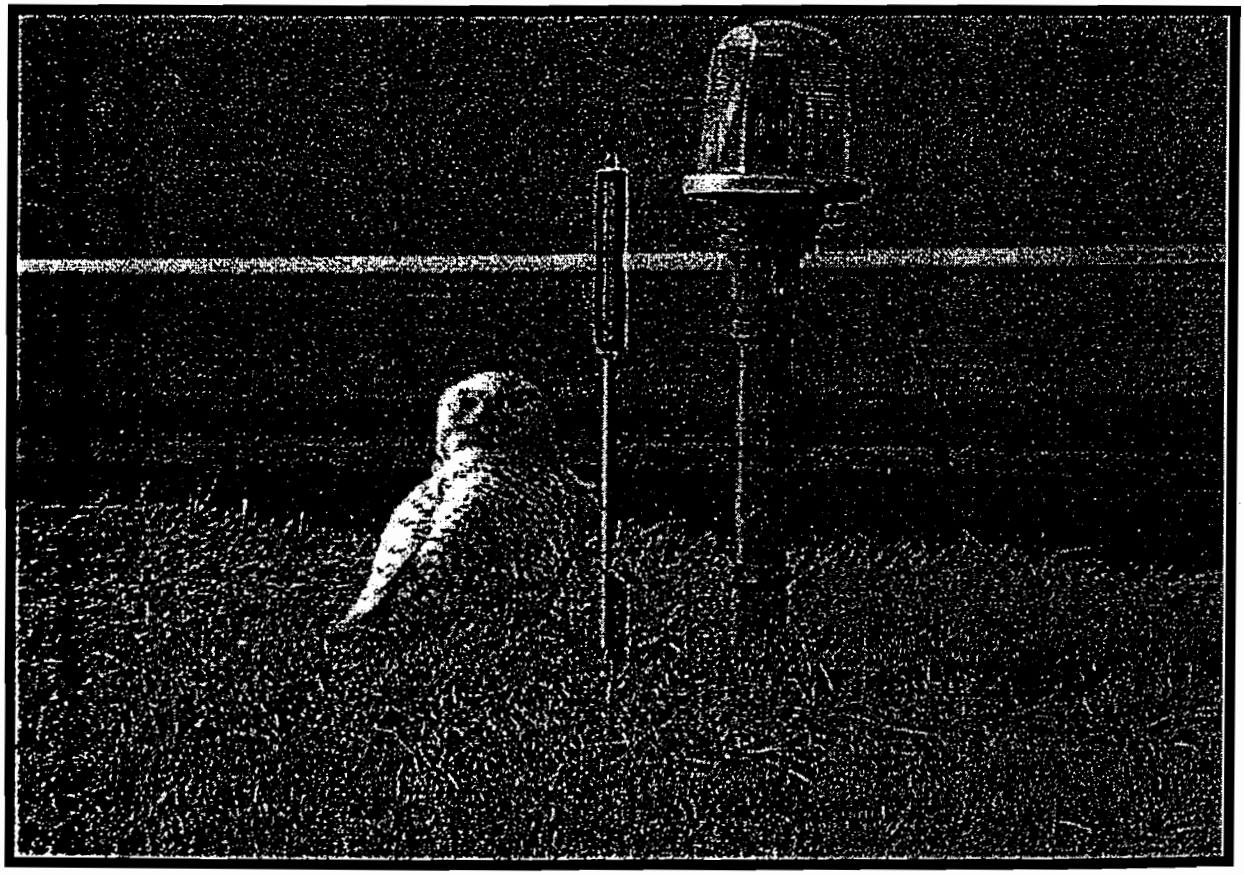

Snowy owl beside a taxiway at Logan International Airport.

Photo by Jim Powers (MASSPORT)

(27) MOVEMENTS, DISTRIBUTION, AND THE EFFECTS OF HAZING ON RADIO-COLLARED CANADA GEESE AT ELMENDORF AIR FORCE BASE, ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

Darryl L. York, John L. Cummings, U.S. Department of Agriculture, APHIS, National Wildlife Research Center, 1716 Heath Parkway, Fort Collins, CO 80524

Kate L. Wedemeyer, U.S. Department of Defense, Elmendorf Air Force Base, AK 99506

Richard E. Johnson, U.S. Department of Agriculture, APHIS, National Wildlife Research Center, 1716 Heath Parkway, Fort Collins, CO 80524

Jerrold L. Belant, U.S. Department of Agriculture, APHIS, National Wildlife Research Center, 6100 Columbus Ave., Sandusky, OH 44870

Jean Bourassa, U.S. Department of Agriculture, APHIS, National Wildlife Research Center, 1716 Heath Parkway, Fort Collins, CO 80524

Abstract: We monitored radio-equipped and/or neck-collared lesser Canada geese (*Branta canadensis parvipes*) during August-October 1996 in Anchorage, Alaska to identify flocks that frequent Elmendorf Air Force Base (EAFB); ascertain local movements, flock cohesion, and post-molt dispersal; and to evaluate the effectiveness of hazing at EAFB. Telemetry data and visual observations of collared geese indicated the majority (55%) of geese observed at EAFB were from nesting sites within 10 km of EAFB. One hundred twenty-one marked geese from 14 capture locations were observed once on EAFB, and 63% of geese observed >2 times on EAFB were from sites within 10 km of EAFB. A significant ($P < 0.01$) relationship was found between proportion of geese invading the EAFB air dome and distance captured from EAFB. However, other factors such as overcrowding and forage availability at heavily used sites could be affecting movements onto EAFB. After attaining flight, geese from north Anchorage initially moved greater distances from molt locations to feeding sites. In addition, marked geese were located with other members of their original flock during 70% of visual observations, indicating the maintenance of discreet, identifiable flocks after dispersal from molt and nesting locations. Intensive hazing was successful in keeping geese out of an exclusion zone surrounding the runways on EAFB, and effective in preventing the majority (67%) of geese from returning. However, hazed geese did not disperse far from the exclusion zone. We also documented peak movements of geese on EAFB during afternoon hours between 1200-1759 hr (46% of observations).